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STATE PARK

ILLINOIS DOCUMENTS



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THE PARK

Frank Holten State Park is located near the shadow of the St. Louis Gateway Arch, the Gateway to the West. The 1,125-acre park is almost entirely surrounded by East St. Louis.

In 1946 the park was established and named Grand Marais. On May 1, 1967, the name was changed to Frank Holten, in the honor of the late distinguished legislator from East St. Louis. Holten served 48 years in the Illinois General Assembly since his first election in 1916. He died in December, 1966, at the age of 98.

HISTORY

The area around Frank Holten has a variety of early American historical landmarks and Indian lore.

Three state memorials lie to the north of the park; Lewis and Clark, near Wood River; Lovejoy, at Alton; and Governor Coles, at Edwardsville.

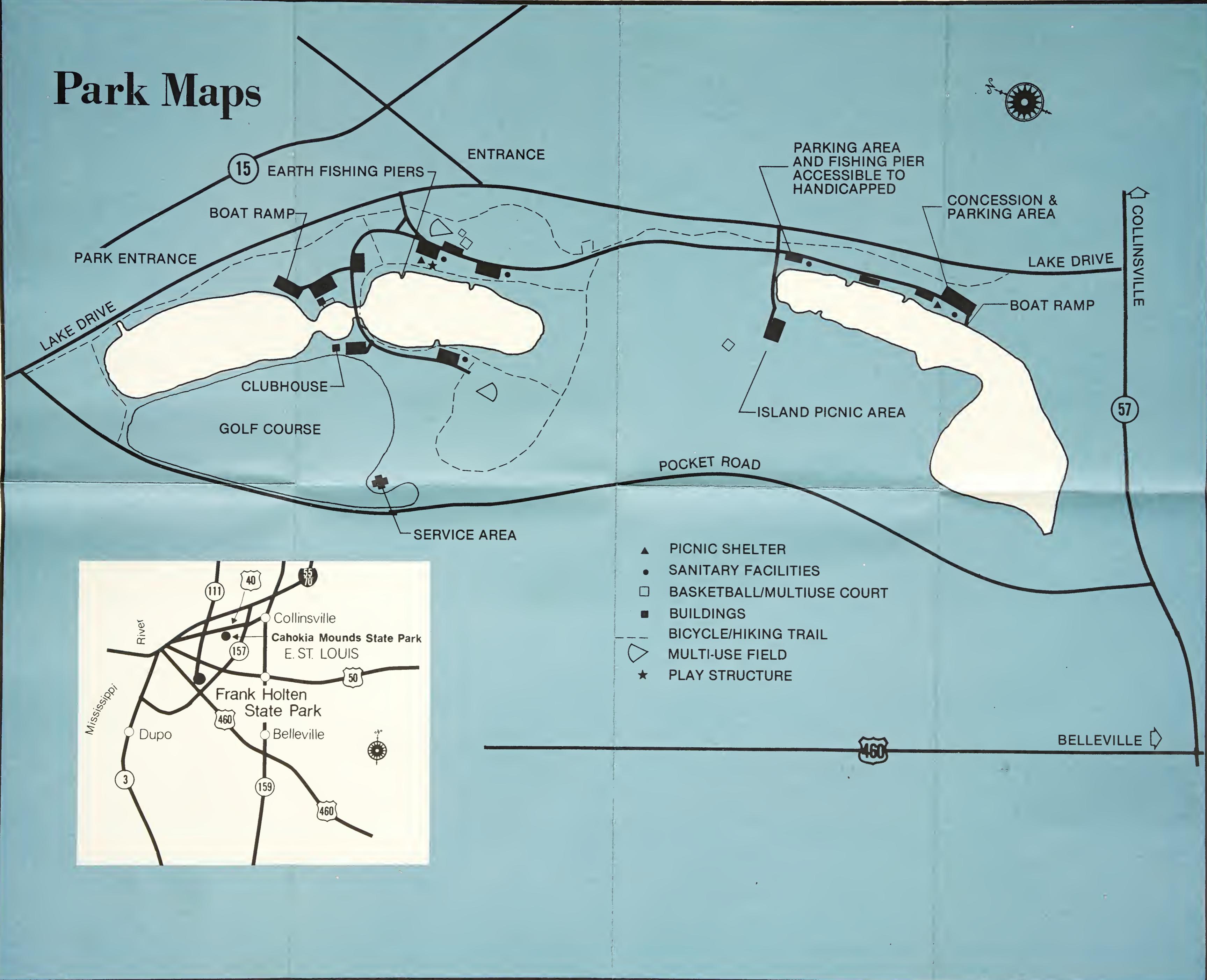
About four miles north are the Indian Mounds at Cahokia Mounds State Park. Probably the earliest inhabitants of this area were the mound building Pre-Columbian Indians who dotted this part of the state with over 200 mounds. The 18 well-preserved earthenworks at Cahokia Mounds State Park constitutes one of the largest such historical landmarks on the North American continent. This was also the site of a settlement of La Trappe monks in 1810.

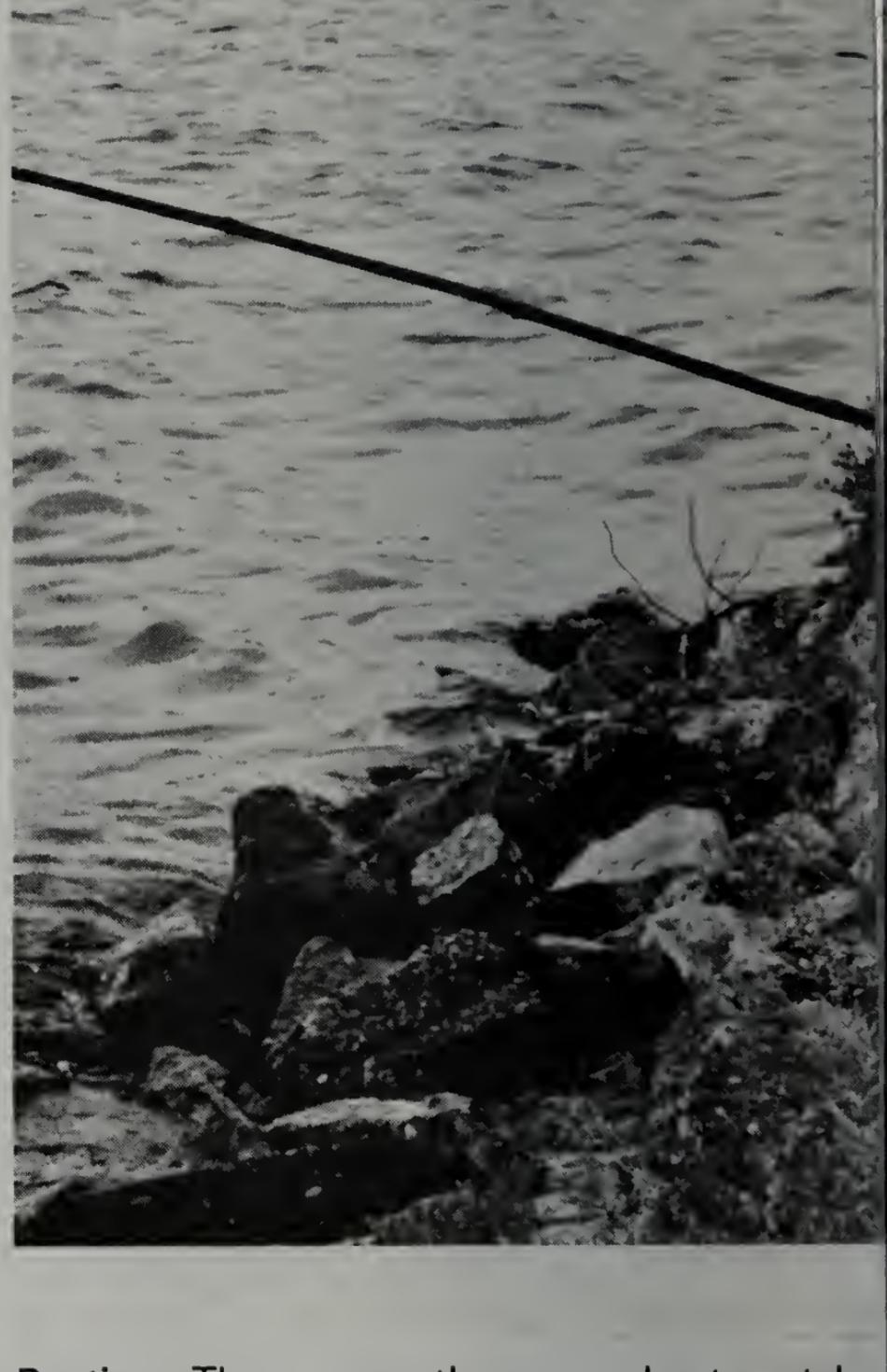
Evidence of the early French regime is found six miles south of Frank Holten State Park at the town of Cahokia, where the Cahokia Courthouse State Memorial, Old Holy Family church and Jarrott Mansion are preserved.

NATURAL SCENE

The area has a variety of plant and animal life. Shade and decorative trees include Scotch pine, maple, oak, poplar, sycamore, ginkgo, tulip, red bud, sweet gum and wild cherry. Water lily, lilac, arrowhead, bridal wreath, honeysuckle bush and mock orange, are some of the blossoming flowers and bushes. Many common species of animals may be viewed in the park, such as rabbit, squirrel, raccoon, fox, groundhog, muskrat and mink.

Park Maps





Boating: There presently are no boat rentals. There is a 10 h.p. motor limit on lake No. 3.

Other: A baseball diamond and an 18-hole golf course with a clubhouse are available. Full court basketball is available at the north side of Lake No. 2 and half court basketball is available at the southwest corner of lake No. 3.

FACILITIES

Picnicking: There are two main areas, one in the northeastern end of the park and the other on the island in lake No. 3. Tables, water, toilets and playground equipment are also available.

Concession Stand: A variety of refreshments are offered, including sandwiches, snack items and soft drinks. The stand is in the golf clubhouse.

Fishing: A variety of fish can be caught in the three lakes, including largemouth bass, bluegill, sunfish, crappie, carp, yellow bass, suckers and drum. The three lakes have a combined size of 208 acres and a combined shoreline of five miles.



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Groups of 25 or more persons will not be admitted to any state site unless permission from the site superintendent has been obtained to use the facilities. In addition, groups of minors must have adequate supervision and at least one responsible adult must accompany each group of 15 minors. All pets must be on a leash.

Numerous state sites are within easy access of every part of Illinois. Lodges, cabins and dining rooms are important features of Illinois Beach, Starved Rock, Pere Marquette and Giant City; White Pines Forest has cabins and dining rooms only. Reservations for lodging should be made with lodge managers.

Most state sites are open year round, except on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. When weather conditions necessitate the closing of roads during freezing and thawing periods, access to facilities is by foot only.

For more details about this site, contact Site Superintendent, Frank Holten State Park, 4500 Pocket Road, East St. Louis 62005, phone 618/874-7920. For information on other Illinois recreational areas, write the Department of Conservation, Land and Historic Sites Division, 524 S. Second St., Springfield, Illinois 62706.

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